



MEDIA RELEASE

Tucson Fire Department

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Date: 12/31/2008

Disposing of Hazardous Household Materials

From the detergent we use to wash our clothes, to the weed killer used on our lawns, hazardous materials can be found in every home. These chemically enhanced products simplify our lives, but can also be extremely dangerous if they are not disposed of properly. Hazardous materials are toxic, corrosive, flammable, and are capable of causing serious illness or harm to humans, pets, wildlife, and the environment.

Common Household Hazards

- Detergent
- Hair Spray
- Insect Repellent
- Paint Thinner
- Weed Killer
- Powdered Cleansers
- Air Freshener
- Bleach
- Fabric Cleaner
- Polish
- Pool Chemicals
- Any Liquid Cleaning Fluid

How to Dispose of Hazardous Household Materials

Hazardous materials should **NEVER** be thrown in garbage cans, flushed down drains or toilets, or burned!

- Expired/Unused Medications: dilute with water, mix with coffee grounds, place inside a closed container, and discard it in the trash.
- Liquid Cleaning Products: Once the remainder of the product has been used, rinse with water 3 times and pour the rinse water down the drain. Discard plastic container in trash.
- Aerosol Cans: Hold valve down to make sure all the pressure is released. Take can to a local Household Hazardous Waste site. **Do not dispose in the trash.**
- Pesticides & Herbicides: Reseal empty container, wrap in newspaper, and discard in the trash.
- Automotive Oil: Drain waste oil into a container with a tight-fitting lid and take to a local Household Hazardous Waste site.
- Antifreeze: Take antifreeze to a local Household Hazardous Waste site.
- Gasoline: Drain used gasoline into a leak proof plastic container with a tight-fitting lid and take to a local Household Hazardous Waste site.
- Paint Products: **Never** dump solvents, paint thinners, or wood preservatives into the sewer system. Take to a local Household Hazardous Waste site.

Hazardous Materials Resources

- **Household Hazardous Waste Program**
(520) 888-6947 <http://www.deq.co.pima.az.us/waste/householdhaz.html>
Information on what can be brought to sites to be recycled at no cost, addresses of outreach sites and hours of operation
- **Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center**
1-800-222-1222 <http://www.pharmacy.arizona.edu/outreach/poison/>
24 hrs a day – 7 days a week – 365 days a year – free – confidential
- **Pima County Department of Environmental Quality**
(520) 740-3340 <http://www.deq.co.pima.az.us/>

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